Details of these fires are given below:

| Location | Reported year of start of fire |
|---|---|
| Nudkhurkee . . . | 1952 |
| Jogidih . . . . | 1965 |
| Kooridih . . . | 1967 |
| East Katras . . . | 1951 |
| West Mudidih . . | 1957 |

(c) Since these fires were small and located in shallow outcrop regions of coal seams, these were dealt with by quenching with water, digging out followed by quenching with water and loading off the materials, isolation by trench cutting and blanketing with earth and matti to cut out supply of air.

(d) Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have informed that no separate account of expenditure incurred on these fires was maintained. However, the total expenditure incurred to deal with the Jharia Coalfield fires is about Rs. 73 crores.

**Coal production during the current financial year**

1242. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the first five months of the current financial year, there was an increase in coal production ;

(b) if so, what was the total production of coal during this period and to what extent it was more in comparision with the corresponding period of last year;

(c) what is the total target of coal production set for current financial year;

(d) whether in view of this, Government have decided not to allow import of coal by various States ; and

(e) if so, what efforts are being made by Government to improve coal production in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal production in the country during the first five months of current financial year and corresponding period of last year was as under :—

(million tonnes\

| Period | Coal Production | Percentage increase |
|---|---|---|
| April—August, 1992 . | 80.46 | |
| April– August, 1993 (Provisional) . . | 85.82 | 6.67 |

(c) The All India target of coal production for 1993-94 has been fixed at 249.24 million tonnes (including 4.00 million tonnes exposed coal).

(d) Coal has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from the Government of India for its import.

(e) Steps taken to augment coal pro duction, inter-alia, include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to optimise production and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

**Piparwar Open Cast coal Project**

1243. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present stage of Piparwar Open Cast coal project;

(b) by when the project is expected to be completed;

(c) what is the total sanctioned outlay of ;he project;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce the similar modern technology in other coal mines; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Implementation of Integerated Mine-cum-Beneficiafion Project of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) is progressing as per schedule and the project is expected to be completed by June,